

Appl. No. 10/780,028  
Amdt. dated December 22, 2006  
Reply to O.A. of October 4, 2006

PATENT  
Docket No. J-3705

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A candle comprising a meltable solid fuel element, a melting plate upon which said fuel element rests, and a capillary lobe located on said melting plate, the capillary lobe comprising a wall extending upwardly from the melting plate, wherein the capillary lobe cooperatively engages a base portion of a wick holder, the base portion comprising a down-turned skirt extending adjacent the wall of the capillary lobe, wherein a gap is defined between the skirt and the wall of the capillary lobe, and wherein capillary flow of melted fuel occurs upwardly through the gap along the wall of the capillary lobe from the melting plate to a wick retained over the capillary ~~pedestal~~ lobe by the wick holder.
2. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein said fuel element further comprises one or more volatile active materials.
3. (original) The candle of claim 2, wherein said wick holder further comprises at least one heat conductive heat fin.
4. (previously presented) The candle of claim 3, wherein said meltable solid fuel element comprises a replaceable fuel element cooperatively engaging said melting plate, capillary lobe, and wick holder.
5. (original) The candle of claim 4, wherein the replaceable fuel element further comprises a starter bump on the top surface thereof, in close proximity to said wick, for ease of lighting said wick.

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6. (previously presented) The candle of claim 3, wherein said melting plate further comprises a raised heat conductive portion by which heat is conducted from a flame upon said wick to said melting plate and to said solid fuel element, whereby a pool of heated liquid fuel is created, said melting plate being configured to cause the flow of said heated liquid fuel toward said wick holder.

7. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein said wick holder is configured so as to cause said candle to rapidly burn out if said wick holder is not cooperatively engaged with said capillary lobe.

8. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein said melting plate is treated so as to be self cleaning.

9 – 51. (canceled)

52. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the gap is for establishing the capillary flow of melted fuel upwardly toward the wick.

53. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the melting plate comprises at least one of a heat conductive material or a non-heat conductive material.

54. (new) The candle of claim 53, wherein the heat conductive material comprises at least one of brass, aluminum, steel, copper, stainless steel, silver, tin, bronze, zinc, iron, clad materials, heat conductive polymers, ceramics, or glass.

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55. (new) The candle of claim 54, wherein the heat conductive material is aluminum.
56. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick terminates at least about 0.25 inches above the melting plate.
57. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the capillary lobe is circular.
58. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the gap is sized so as to enhance the flow of fuel to the wick.
59. (new) The candle of claim 58, wherein the gap is from about 0.01 inches to about 0.04 inches.
60. (new) The candle of claim 59, wherein the gap is about 0.02 inches.
61. (new) The candle of claim 1 further comprising a coating of surface tension modifying material applied to the melting plate.
62. (new) The candle of claim 61, wherein the coating comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.
63. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the melting plate rests upon a non-conductive base.

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64. (new) The candle of claim 63, wherein the non-conductive base creates an insulating air gap between the melting plate and a surface upon which the candle rests.

65. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick comprises at least one of a consumable wicking material or a non-consumable wicking material.

66. (new) The candle of claim 65, wherein the consumable wicking material comprises at least one of cotton, cellulose, nylon, or paper.

67. (new) The candle of claim 65, wherein the non-consumable wicking material comprises at least one of a porous ceramic, a porous metal, fiber glass, metal fiber, compressed sand, glass, a metal, ceramic microspheres, foamed glass, porous glass, pumice, perlite, gypsum, or chalk.

68. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick holder comprises a hole in a top surface thereof and wick retention means.

69. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the capillary lobe is located approximately in the center of the melting plate.

70. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the melting plate comprises a decoratively shaped container.

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71. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel element is a shape that comprises a round shape, a square shape, an oval shape, a rectangular shape, a triangular shape, a flower shape, or a decorative shape.

72. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel element and capillary lobe are complementarily shaped.

73. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick holder is circular.

74. (new) The candle of claim 73, wherein the capillary lobe in conjunction with the wick holder creates a capillary gap for a limited portion of a circumference of the wick holder.

75. (new) The candle of claim 74, wherein the gap comprises 90°, 180°, or 270° of the circumference of the wick holder.

76. (new) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel element comprises a fuel comprising at least one of paraffin, beeswax, montan wax, carnauba wax, microcrystalline wax, polyvinyl acetate, fatty alcohols, fatty acids, fatty esters, or a gel.

77. (new) The candle of claim 76, wherein the fuel element has a melting temperature above ambient.

78. (new) The candle of claim 77, wherein the fuel element melts at a temperature between ambient temperature and a flame temperature of a wick burning the fuel.

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79. (new) The candle of claim 78, wherein the fuel element has a melting temperature of 130°F.

80. (new) The candle of claim 2, wherein the one or more volatile materials comprise at least one of a fragrance, an air freshener, a deodorizer, an odor eliminator, an odor counteractant, an insecticide, an insect repellant, an herbal, a medicinal substance, a disinfectant, a sanitizer, a mood enhancer, or an aroma therapy composition.

81. (new) The candle of claim 3, wherein the at least one heat conductive heat fin is configured so as to come in close proximity to a flame on the wick so as to conduct heat from the flame to said melting plate.

82. (new) The candle of claim 6, wherein the temperature of the pool of heated liquid fuel exceeds a temperature of about 170° F at a point about 10 mm from the wick, and about 140° F at a point about 20 mm from the wick, within less than about 10 minutes of lighting the wick.

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